

Man Before the Architecture

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INTRODUCTION

Based on the prioritization between architectural space and form, for essential characteristics of architectural art studying. Compare with the production of architecture art, this discussion much more emphasizes the importance of “man before the architecture” and “space before the form”.

KEY WORD

Architecture, Space, Form, Culture, Art

1. FOREWORD

Architecture is a culture, and an art. Thus there are many discussions upon this main conception about different between architectural culture and architectural art. In order to clarify this subject, there will be divided into as two parts: space and form.

In terms of phenomena, classical architecture and modern architecture do differ greatly in the order of form and space. The form of classical architecture is generally takes precedence over space, which it was called the form determines the space. Or otherwise, in modern architecture, the form comes after the space, which also has be shaped by different style of the space. Siheyuan, as one of the most traditional Chinese architectures, it is a typical form in it (Figure 1). Whether it is the royal family or the ordinary citizens, they all lived in Siheyuan, where the size of space is different, but is still following the rule of form determines the space. On the other hand, the modern architecture with the high attention on the human emotions. It set the space in priority (Figure 2). From the architecture education perspective, there are also two different attitudes: the Paris Beaux-Art system is focus on form, while the German Bauhaus is emphasis on space.

2. A STORY OF “CAME INTO BEING AN ARTIST”

On the edge of a wide and deeply dried-up riverbed, four people waiting there for acrossing the river to the other side (Figure 3). The God is impressed by their spirit, filled the dried-up with water for helping (Figure 4). Four distinct attitudes coming with the watering, there is one was too afraid to enter the water. Return to the shore after down by the unbearable freezing water, that was the second one. The third man pretty much enjoy the water, he decided to stay with them finally, and the last one to swum it (Figure 5). Four corresponding different types were born while the God was announcing the water equal with culture: illiteracy, dropout, well-educated, and the artist.

3. AN ENCOUNTER WITH ARATA ISOZAKI

Arata Isozaki is a great architect, he designed the art museum of China Central Academy of Fine Arts (Figure 6). I participated in the design and parts of project management. After this work, I summarized three key points for the producing of architecture art.

3.1 Ideology

Ideology is a concept with philosophical meaning, it is a foundation for making sure the culture symbols will be involved in every single work. The expression is likely to be full and profound with the guidance of ideas, it is the way for offering one possible opportunity to users for experiencing something special in architecture space.

3.2 Uniqueness

Uniqueness means surpassing and getting rid of the original form. It should be noted that the new space here is linked with user's life experience. It's the hypothetical.

3.3 Precision

Precision means “under control”. Art must have a sort of order.

4. A PRACTICE

In 2017, I designed the southern gate of CAFA. CAFA is a century-old art school, as the best one in China, it is the cradle for cultivating outstanding stylish artists. In 2000, it relocated in Wangjing, Chaoyang district, from Xiaowei Hutong, its former site. For young generation who passionate with art, highly competition for entry test is always an uneasy thing, graduation either. Under this circumstance, combining with the ideology, uniqueness and the precision, I did my design work.

Ideology: CAFA stressful entry tests stories, placing man standing in front of the architecture.

Uniqueness: The method referred with the corner in Hutong, for experiencing the zigzag before you are going into the main campus.

Precision: All details controlled under the strictly managing work for ensure the quality.

5. SUMMARY

- 1) There is a fundamental difference between art and culture. Culture is much more approach “constructing”, art belong to the “dismantling” in a way. The order is required by the Social foundation, meanwhile Culture came into being. Culture as a constraint is not always in positive, that is the reason of exist necessary for art, much positive or negative in both.
- 2) Art comes from the original life, not art itself. The human being's mind is influenced easily by the form of art sometimes, even unconsciously made the messenger of culture, unable to go ashore in final. The only way you can obtain the strength for acrossing the river, is experiencing every daily life profoundly.
- 3) Man before the architecture.
Compared the space and form with art and life, under the symbolic of “man before the architecture”. The form of architecture art is as abstract as much an invisible strength, it is an uneasy task for breaking through.



Figure 1: Siheyuan, Beijing



Figure 2: Meiso no Mori Municipal Funeral Hall

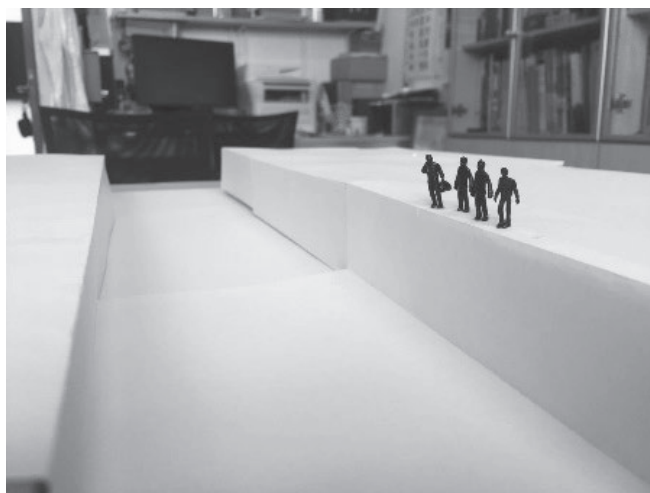


Figure 3: Without water

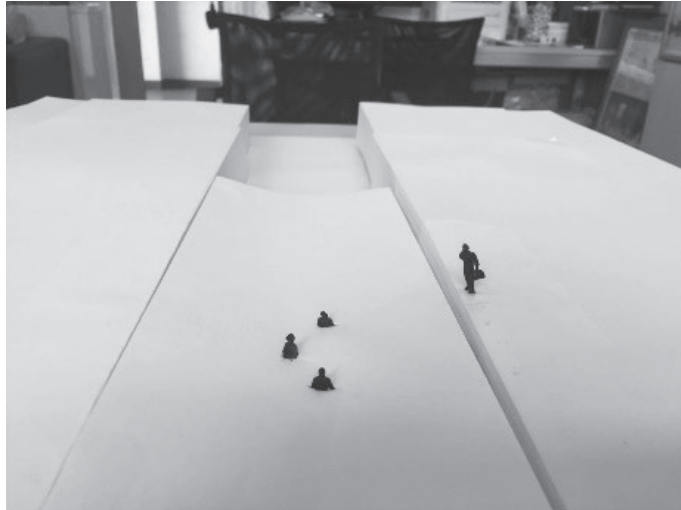


Figure 4: Enter the water



Figure 5: Landing



Figure 6: The Art Museum of China Central Academy of Fine Arts



Figure 7: Hutong in Beijing



Figure 8: The doorplate of Xiaowei Hutong



Figure 9: Wangjing SOHO



Figure 10: The southern gate of CAFA (1)



Figure 11: The southern gate of CAFA (2)



Figure 12: The southern gate of CAFA (3)